

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

DICKS, Norman D. (Democrat)
Representative, 6th District, Washington
Elected 1976 to 95th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Bremerton, Washington - 16 December 1940

Home: Bremerton, Washington

Marital status: Married (Suzanne) - 2 children

Religion: Lutheran

Education: University of Washington, BA, 1963; JD, 1968

Military: None

Profession: Attorney; Congressional Aide

Political: Legislative/admin asst, Sen Warren Magnuson (D-WA), 1968-1976. Received 73% of the 1976 vote to succeed Rep Floyd Hicks (D) who was named to the Washington Supreme Court. Reelected in 1998 with 68% of the vote, in 2000 with 65%, and in 2002 with 65%.

Rep. Dicks, a liberal, is pro-defense and has played a key role in protecting many Boeing programs (Boeing is located in his district). He is an ardent advocate of the B-2, JSF, Airborne Laser, C-17, and supports converting the AF's Boeing 707 type aircraft to Boeing 767s. He served on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence from 1990 to 1998. In the 105th Congress he served on the Cox Commission investigating technology transfer to China.

In the 106th Congress reluctantly supported the HAC/Defense Subc's move to cut F-22 funding because of cost-growth concerns. Applauded the B-2's performance in Kosovo and said the Air Force's bomber roadmap was fatally flawed. Supported C-17 multi-year procurement and served on the Natl' Commission for the Review of the NRO.

During the 107th Congress, opposed an amd't to the FY01 emergency supplemental to reduce AF RDT&E funding for the airborne laser. Signed a Mar01 letter to the SecDef stressing concern for further delays in the F-22 program and urged a move forward to low-rate production of the F-22. Applauded a successful B-2 test to hit a moving target and concluded that "the B-2 is certainly the premier conventional weapon in our arsenal today" (FY02 DoD Auth debates 20Sep01). Fought to add more than \$100M in B-2 bomber upgrades to the FY02 budget request and led the effort to secure a gov't deal with Boeing to lease 100 new 767 aircraft to replace a portion of the AF's fleet of the KC-135 tankers. Said the lease alternative would reduce the gov't up-front investment. Said he would also explore other uses of the 767 airframe as a replacement for other aircraft including the J-STARS and AWACS planes, and "providing the AF with 757s to transport top-level gov't officials" (AP Newswire 22Oct01). In Nov01 said he was encouraged by Lockheed's effort to include Boeing in the JSF contract. "Based on the cooperation that Lockheed and Boeing have demonstrated on the successful F-22 program, I am convinced that the two companies can enter into a constructive working relationship on the JSF program." Introduced an FY01 emergency supplemental approps bill to provide \$6.7M in emergency funding for critical readiness needs of the armed forces.

Emphasizes funding counterterrorism operations over the administration's top priority of building a national missile defense. Said NMD should be a distant third after systems to protect troops in combat zones from missile attack (WP, 19Sep01).

Additional: 1961 Rose Bowl player. Co-Chair, Air Power Caucus & Impact Aid Coalition.
Large

Navy constituency at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Naval Station Bremerton.

AF Bases: McChord AFB and Reserve Forces (Interest only, base not physically in district)

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS -- Subcs on Defense; Interior-Ranking; Military Construction

SELECT HOMELAND SECURITY – Subcs on Infrastructure & Border Security; Intell &
Counterterrorism
BOARD OF VISITORS, AIR FORCE ACADEMY (1981-2001)